

REMARKS

Claims 43-51 are pending and have been added in place of claims 1-42.

Claim 43 recites a shroud to guide the air blown by the axial fan, wherein the shroud includes “a first surface adjacent the outdoor heat exchanger and having a polygonal shape; a plurality of first inclination surfaces formed substantially as triangular planes that respectively extend from a first set of edges of the first surface, the triangular planes extending at substantially a first angle with respect to the outdoor heat exchanger; and a plurality of second inclination surfaces that extend from a second set of edges of the first surface, the second inclination surfaces extending at substantially a second angle that is different from the first angle with respect to the outdoor heat exchanger, wherein the first and second inclination surfaces cause air to flow smoothly when introduced in a radial direction of the axial fan.” These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

The Copp patent discloses a shroud to guide air flow to an outdoor condenser. Inclination surfaces are located on lateral sides of the shroud. However, the Copp shroud does not have the inclination surfaces recited in claim 43, i.e., a plurality of first inclination surfaces formed substantially as triangular planes that respectively extend from a first set of edges of the first surface, the triangular planes extending at substantially a first angle with respect to the outdoor heat exchanger; and a plurality of second inclination surfaces that extend from a second set of edges of the first surface, the second inclination surfaces extending at substantially a second angle that is different from the first angle.

The inclination surfaces of the shroud of claim 43 causes air to flow smoothly when introduced in a radial direction of the axial fan. However, the arrangement of inclination surfaces of Copp increase resistance to air flow in the radial direction, which militates against the type of smooth flow generated by the inclination surfaces of claim 43.

The Thomaschew publication discloses triangular surfaces that are parallel to a heat exchanger. However, unlike claim 43, there is no first surface “facing” the heat exchanger. Also, in Thomaschew, outdoor air is introduced through the heat exchanger to a fan in an axial direction, not a radial direction. Therefore, even if the triangular surface is inclined to the heat exchanger, it can not provide efficient air flow guide as in claim 43.

Moreover, the Thomaschew publication does not teach or suggest the arrangement of first and second sets of inclination surfaces as recited in claim 43.

Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 43 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP



Daniel Y. J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: December 22, 2009

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610

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